



November - December 2004

State awarded \$45 million in HLS grants for 2005

Washington will receive \$45.3 million in federal fiscal year 2005 for homeland security programs, according to the Department of Homeland Security budget guidance released Dec. 3.

"While the total dollar amount is not as high as in 2004, Washington's share of the federal homeland security funds in 2005 will maintain a high level of support for the state's homeland security preparedness," said Gov. Gary Locke.

The 2005 DHS budget allocates to Washington \$21.2 million to homeland security grants, \$11.9 million for urban area security, and \$7.7 million for the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program.

In addition, the 2005 DHS allotment assigns to Washington \$3.4 million for the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program, \$682,776 for the Metropolitan Medical Response Program and \$269,275 for the Citizen Corps Program.

Overall, Washington ranked 15th among the 57 states and territories that will receive 2005 homeland security allocations. Washington stood at 14th in the 2004 homeland security allocations.

The Department of Homeland Security said each state and territory and the District of Columbia received 2005 homeland security grants based on a formula consisting of a baseline amount plus the population of the state or territory. The homeland security grants are to be used for equipment, training, planning and exercises.

The Urban Area Security funding was allocated through a formula that considered population and population density, critical infrastructure, threat information, formal mutual aid cooperation, and



A Smokey Point driver (left) accepted help to reach safety in Silvana after his pickup truck stalled Dec. 11 in Stillaguamish River floodwaters. Although heavy rains and melting snow pushed rivers in eight Washington counties above flood stage between Dec. 9-12, little damage was reported. (Everett Herald photo by Jennifer Buchanan)

Seattle urban area picked for DHS technology initiative

The Seattle urban area of King, Pierce, Snohomish counties and the city of Seattle was designated in December by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology directorate as one of four urban areas to participate in the new Regional Technology Integration Initiative (RTII).

RTII seeks to test developing hardware and technology concepts to determine the best way to choose, deploy and manage these technologies in regional, state and local jurisdictions.

Other cities in the program are Anaheim, Calif; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Memphis, Tenn. All of these regions currently are participants in the DHS Urban Area Security Initiative and have demonstrated a willingness to adopt advanced and innovative concepts for emergency preparedness and public safety.

The RTII will provide the Seattle urban area and the state with the following:

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law enforcement investigations and enforcement activity, DHS said.

Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg, director of the Washington Military Department, said the 2005 DHS allocations will boost the state's homeland security grant funding since 2000 to more than \$200 million.

He said the state's Committee on Homeland Security and the cabinet-level Domestic Security Executive Group, in coordination with the state's Emergency Management Division, will ensure that this 2005 grant is distributed according to the state's homeland security strategy and plan that has been developed with input from local and state public agencies and the private sector.

Pierce College awarded grant for HLS skills panel

Pierce College and its Homeland Security Center of Excellence received a \$60,000 state Skills Panel Grant Award for 2005 to develop strategies to train workers for public and private homeland security jobs.

Announced in November, the grant will underwrite a homeland security skill panel of leaders in business, labor education and economic development that will lead to tools, products and recommendations to enhance worker training for homeland security positions.

The Pierce College program, which will be coordinated through the state Committee on Homeland Security's training subcommittee, will include:

- A regional industry or 'industry cluster' labor market analysis.
- Specialized regional surveys of businesses in the homeland security industry.
- Development or revision of skill standards curriculum specific to industry needs.
- A plan to sustain a public/private partnership for the industry, including plans to use training resources to meet industry skill needs.

John Fortugno, interim vice president for extended learning at Pierce College, has been named by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to serve as the director of the college's Homeland Security Institute. A retired U.S. Navy officer, Fortugno is a graduate of the Navy War College and holds a masters' degree in education from the University of California at Los Angeles and a masters' degree in public administration from The Evergreen State College in Olympia. He begins as institute director Jan. 3.

Seattle urban security area picked for DHS initiative

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- Technical and managerial expertise and understanding of emerging and advanced technologies.
- Potential upgrades for the local governments' baseline technological needs.
- A collaborative approach to identifying preparedness needs and deployment of advanced technologies.
- Evaluation of other DHS resource opportunities to fill capabilities gaps that are identified.

To participate, the Seattle urban area and the state agreed:

- To be early adapters of advanced technologies
- To work collaboratively with DHS' Science and Technology team to identify gaps and solutions.
- To seek and find additional funding from the federal government and other sources as necessary to implement and sustain the solutions developed in the RTII process.



A series of four earthquakes of about magnitude 3.0 on Dec. 17 at Mount St. Helens highlighted the ongoing growth of the new lava dome inside the volcano's crater. While the earthquakes were part of the continuing eruption at the mountain, U.S. Geological Survey scientists warned that the eruption could intensify with little warning and produce hazardous conditions several miles out from the crater and further downwind. Small mud flows also could descend the Toutle River, posing a hazard along the river channel upstream from the Sediment Retention Facility, USGS officials said. The State EOC continues to monitor the situation. (USGS Photo)

El Nino expected to linger over region until next May

November 2004 was the ninth driest month on record at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, reflecting the onset of an El Nino condition for the Pacific Northwest for the winter of 2004-2005, according to the National Weather Service (NWS).

Sea-Tac Airport recorded only 3.16 inches of rain, compared to a normal November rainfall of more than six inches. The driest November occurred in 1976, which was another notable El Nino year, when only .74 inches of rain fell.

The El Nino condition, which results from warmer than normal ocean temperatures in the eastern Pacific, will bring above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall to our region through next May, said Greg Sinnett, chief meteorologist for the state Department of Natural Resources.

Sinnett said the rainfall in November was below normal for most areas of the state, especially in Eastern Washington. November rainfall in Eastern Washington ranged from just four per cent of normal in the Okanogan Region to 75 per cent of normal in the Palouse and Blue Mountains.

In Western Washington, he said the percentage of normal precipitation in November ranged from 42 per cent for the Southwest interior to 106 per cent of normal for the Northwest interior, where some flooding occurred late in the month.

He said the regional weather outlook for December through February calls for a greater chance of below normal rainfall. Sinnett said the below normal rainfall will have its biggest effect on mountain snowpack in the central and southern Cascade Mountains.

Grant applications due in Feb. 23

Washington state agencies, local jurisdictions and tribal nations may submit applications through Feb. 23 for planning and project grants under the federal 2005 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program.

Both the planning and project activities must focus primarily on natural hazards but also may address hazards caused by non-natural forces.

Information and grant applications can be obtained from the Emergency Management Division website at <emd.wa.gov> or Marty Best, Mitigation Project Manager, (253) 512-7073.

Pierre to join EMC

Samuel Pierre, Washington State Fire Marshal, was named Dec. 21 to the State Emergency Management Council (EMC) by Gov. Gary Locke.

The council advises the governor and the Washington Emergency Management Division about emergency services in the state and arbitrates search and rescue claims between state and local governments.



Emergency Responder

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The Washington Emergency Management Division, including the State Emergency Operations Center, is located in Building 20 on Camp Murray, located at exit 122 on Interstate 5 south of Tacoma, Washington.

EMD Staff Assignments

Sandy Bigelow was named plans program assistant in the Analysis and Plans Section of the Mitigation, Analysis and Plans Unit effective Nov. 8. She had served as secretary senior in the Homeland Security Section of the Preparedness Unit.

Scott Jackson joined EMD Dec. 6 as the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program Training and Exercise Coordinator. A U.S. Army veteran, Jackson previously worked in the private sector.

Toney Raines was appointed as a permanent State Emergency Operations Officer (SEOO) effective Dec. 1. Raines, who previously had worked in the private sector, had served in a temporary SEOO position since December 2003.

Gary Herschberger, supervisor of the analysis and plans section of the Mitigation, Analysis and Plans Unit, left EMD Dec. 26 to accept a position in the Health Services Division of the Department of Labor and Industries. He joined EMD in 2003 after serving in the U.S. Army's Western Regional Medical Command.

Hieb named unit manager

Roger Hieb, a veteran of more than 12 years of service with the Emergency Management Division, was named manager of the Preparedness Unit Dec. 13 by EMD Director Jim Mullen.

Mullen said Hieb emerged as the top candidate for the unit manager position from a very talented field of applicants. Hieb had been the acting preparedness unit manager since last June following the departure of Jim Schoonover for a position with a homeland security services company.

A U.S. Army veteran, Hieb joined EMD in 1992 as exercise and training coordinator for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program. He also had served as supervisor of the Exercise, Education and Training section and as manager of the Homeland Security section.

GA honors EMD recovery staff

Six members of the Emergency Management Division's Recovery Field Office were honored in November by the state Department of General Administration (GA) for their work in the remodeling and repair of the State Capitol Building.

The 76-year-old capitol reopened to the public in December after more than three years of repair and remodeling work, including seismic strengthening after the capitol dome's exterior columns shifted slightly in the 2001 Nisqually Earthquake. Total cost of the capitol rehabilitation and repair work was \$101 million.

GA presented awards to Patti Miller-Crowley and Bruce Baardson, supervisors of the Nisqually recovery efforts in the public assistance section, and to section members, Evelyn Peters, Cam Meriwether, Patti Miller-Crowley, Dick Kay and to Lori Guerrero, who transferred earlier this year from the recovery office to the Secretary of State's office.

Bohlander wins Pierce GIS awards

Andy Bohlander, EMD program coordinator and an information technology specialist, won two first place awards in the Pierce County Geographic Information System Day competition Nov. 17.

Bohlander's "Ashfall Modeling and Image Analysis" map of this fall's Mount St. Helens' eruption won "Best Overall Design" and tied for "Most Informative" with Fernando Llamas, a former EMD information technology specialist who now works for Camp Murray's Facilities Maintenance Office.

The volcano map included ash fall projections, volcano hazard zones, and satellite images.



A National Earthquake Conference Award of Excellence was presented Nov. 30 to EMD staffers George Crawford, left, and Mike Namchek, second from right, and to Kim Thorp-Pedersen, right, Federal Signal Corp. area representative, for their work on public warning systems in the state.

Umatilla incineration resumes after safety incident

Umatilla Chemical Depot resumed its 90-day incineration startup program Dec. 21 after a 22-day safety stand down halted operations. The stand down was ordered after a safety incident put two workers in danger of chemical agent exposure.

The startup process, which began Sept. 7, had destroyed more than 2,000 M55 rockets filled with GB sarin and had emptied one storage igloo.

But the incineration stopped Dec. 1 when two workers wearing minimum protective gear entered a wrong door and allowed traces of sarin vapor to escape filter units. The employees were not exposed to the chemical agent, and there was no release into the environment.

A report of the incident said the workers undertook work they were not supposed to do and have not followed procedures, ignoring markings on the door warning them from entering.

Washington Group, the systems contractor, completed corrective actions Dec. 21 and received concurrence from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army to resume chemical agent weapons destruction.

Meanwhile, Umatilla workers announced in November they would appeal a U.S. District Court ruling that found the U.S. Army was not responsible for injuries they suffered in a September 1999 accident at the depot. In the September 1999 incident, workers alleged they were exposed to nerve agent when dozens of them experienced upper respiratory and airway irritation. The court ruled, however, the workers were exposed to an unknown respiratory irritant through inhalation.

Enhanced 9-1-1 Legislation passed in Congress

Federal legislation signed into law Dec. 13 will create a National 9-1-1 Program Office and provides technical and financial support for our nation's local emergency call centers.

The act promotes the nation's homeland security, public safety and citizen activated emergency response capabilities through the use of Enhanced 9-1-1 (E911) service to further upgrade Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) capabilities and related functions in receiving E911 calls.

This legislation recognizes E911 implementation and planning as a priority and establishes a 9-1-1 Coordination Office within the federal executive branch. The National 9-1-1 Office will administer grants from \$1.25 billion of Homeland Security funds that have been authorized for 9-1-1 support.

The bill includes seed money to promote best practices and technology innovations and provides funding to assure that PSAP's are ready to deploy vital call answering equipment.

Among the bill's provisions are requirements that will make states ineligible for assistance when state-dedicated 9-1-1 taxes are used for non-9-1-1 activities.